

II. Election Requirement

With respect to the Group II claims provisionally elected above, the Election Requirement required election between two species: a penetrator positioned (1) within the catheter (Claim 19) or (2) on the exterior of the catheter (Claim 20).

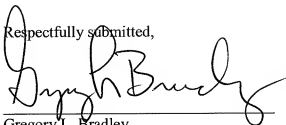
In response to the Election Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species 2 directed to a penetrator positioned on the exterior of the catheter. Applicants submit that the following pending claims are readable on the elected species: Claims 18, 20, 30-38, 40-44 and 51-56.

III. Generic Claims

Applicants agrees with the Examiner that Claims 1, 18 and 45 are generic claims, but also submit that Claims 30 and 34 are generic claims as well.

If there are any outstanding issues that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (412) 767-2400 x3021.

Respectfully submitted,



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